

From the Upper Chamber



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Report for Tuesday, January 24, 2006

The seventh day of the 2006 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Mark Taylor**.

Senator **Don Balfour** of the 9th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 440-446, Senate Resolutions 696 and 697 and House Bills 251, 809 and 821 were read for the first time and assigned to their respective Committees.

Following the report of Standing Committees, a minority report was read concerning parliamentary procedures followed in a Senate Education & Youth Committee held on Monday, January 23.

Following the second reading of Senate Bills and Resolutions, the morning roll call was taken.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then recognized Sen. **Steen Miles** of the 43rd to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Miles** introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Reverend **Jim Swilley** of Church in the Now in Conyers, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

Sen. **Robert Brown** of the 26th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to make comments concerning parliamentary procedures followed in a Senate Education & Youth Committee held on Monday, January 23.

Sen. **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd also took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to speak to the procedures followed in yesterday's Senate Education meeting.

Sen. **Greg Goggans** of the 7th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to ask Senators to sign a resolution honoring a constituent from his district that was injured in an accident.

Sen. **David Adelman** of the 42nd took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to make note of the Senate Rules concerning amendments to House Amendments, in preparation for the debate on SB 84.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then paused to recognize former State Senators **Jim Tysinger** and **Loyce Turner** on the floor of the Senate.

Sen. **Vincent Fort** of the 39th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to echo Sen. **Adelman**'s remarks and to comment on recent Senate procedure.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** then recognized Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18th to introduce the *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **Mitch Rodriguez** of Macon.

The Secretary then read SR 643, recognizing today as LaGrange College Day in Georgia. Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29th was recognized to speak to the Resolution and introduced President of Lagrange College, **F. Stuart Gulley**, who brought greetings to the Senate.

Sen. **Dan Moody** of the 56th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to respond to previous comments concerning the minority report filed on the procedures followed in yesterday's Senate Education Committee meeting.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** paused to take a moment to recognize members of the Georgia Defense Force present on the floor of the Senate.

SR 691-695 and 698-702 were read and adopted.

The Secretary then read SR 703 commending the Jefferson City School System. Lt. Gov. **Taylor** recognized Sen. **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47th to speak to the resolution and to introduce the group present in the gallery.

The Secretary read SR 694, which recognizes the Cartersville/Bartow Chamber of Commerce and its Governmental Affairs Committee and volunteers on their first annual "Drive to the Capitol." Senators **Preston Smith** of the 52nd and **Bill Heath** of the 31st were recognized to speak to the resolution and introduce the group present in the gallery.

Sen. **Eric Johnson** of the 1st then moved that the Senate agree to the House Substitute to SB 84 as amended by AM 18 1276. Sen. **Staton** took the well to explain the bill, relating to form of proper identification at polls, and his amendment to the House Substitute, which clarifies that free voter ID cards will be given only to registered voters. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Fort**.

President Pro Tempore **Johnson**, now presiding, recognized Sens. **Horecena Tate** of the 38th and **Kasim Reed** of the 35th for further questions.

Sen. **Smith** took the well to speak in favor of the motion to agree to the House Substitute to SB 84 as amended. He provided examples of voter fraud and noted that the security and integrity of the voting system was critical to democracy.

Lt. Gov. **Taylor** returned to preside and recognized Sen. **David Shafer** of the 48th to acknowledge the 159 Group, who were present in the gallery.

Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th moved that the Senate stand in recess until 1:30 p.m.

Upon returning from lunch, Sen. **Brown** asked a parliamentary question regarding the procedure for the remainder of the debate.

Sens. **Ed Harbison** of the 15th, **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd, and **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12th, **Miles**, **Emanuel Jones** of the 10th, **Steve Henson** of the 41st and **Fort** took the well to speak in opposition of the legislation.

Sen. **Gloria Butler** of the 55th took the well to oppose the legislation, and she yielded to questions from Sen. **Tate**.

Sen. **Thomas** of the 2nd took the well to speak in opposition of the bill.

Sen. **Bill Stephens** of the 27th took the well to speak in favor of the legislation, and to touch on the history of voter fraud in Georgia. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Reed**, **Brown** and **Henson**.

Sen. **Sam Zamarripa** of the 36th took the well to voice his opposition to the bill and the speed and manner with which it will be implemented.

Sen. **Ed Tarver** of the 22nd took the well to speak in opposition of the bill. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Brown**.

Minority Whip **Adelman** and Minority Leader **Brown** took the well to voice opposition of the bill. Sen. **Brown** yielded to questions from Sen. **Thompson** of the 33rd, **Zamarripa**, **Jones** and **Fort**.

Majority Leader **Williams** took the well to speak to the legislation and to conclude the debate.

Sen. **Reed** took the well to oppose the legislation and he yielded to questions from Sen. **Harp**, **Henson**, **Brown**, **J.B. Powell** of the 23rd, **Adelman**, **Jones**, **John Wiles** of the 37th, and **Fort**.

Sen. **Thompson** of the 33rd requested that the Secretary of the Senate read Senate Rules 7-110C.

Sen. **Staton** then took the well to close the debate and yielded to questions from Sen. **Reed**.

Sen. **Williams** asked for a ruling of the chair on the germaneness of Amendments 1-6. Lt. Gov. **Taylor** ruled that the Amendments were germane. Sen. **Williams** moved to override the rule of the chair. Parliamentarian **Johnson** ruled that the amendments were germane, but not in order. Sen. **Adelman** objected. The vote to sustain the ruling of the Parliamentarian was 33-21, and Amendments 1-6 were ruled out of order.

Sen. **Zamarripa** took the well to present Amendment 7, which would require the Department of Driver Services to establish a program utilizing a mobile ID unit to deliver voter identification cards to the elderly in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. He also presented Amendment 8, which also deals with mobile ID units.

Amendment 7 was defeated by a vote of 22-32.

Amendment 8 was defeated by a vote of 21-32.

Sen. **Thompson** of the 33rd asked for a ruling of the chair on the need for the fiscal note on SB 84. Lt. Gov. **Taylor** ruled that the bill was out of order due to the lack of a fiscal note. Sen. **Williams** objected and moved to override the rule of the chair. Parliamentarian **Johnson** ruled that the bill did not require a fiscal note. Sen. **Adelman** objected. The vote to sustain the ruling of the Parliamentarian was 32-22, and the bill was in order.

Sen. **Williams** moved to previous question and Sen. **Thompson** of the 33rd objected. On the motion for the previous question, the vote was 33-21 and the motion carried.

By a vote of 32-22, the Senate agreed to the House Substitute as amended by AM 18 1276.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Williams** moved to stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 25.

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